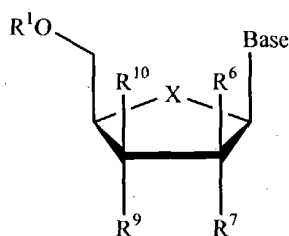


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-88 (canceled)

Claims 89 (currently amended): A method for the treatment ~~or prophylaxis~~ of a hepatitis C virus infection in a host, comprising administering an anti-virally effective amount of a compound of Formula XVII:



(XVII)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, wherein:

Base is a triazolopyridine, imidazolopyridine, or pyrazolopyrimidine ~~or pyrimidine base as defined herein~~;

R¹ and R² are independently H; phosphate (~~including monophosphate, diphosphate, triphosphate, or a stabilized phosphate prodrug~~); a stabilized phosphate prodrug; acyl (including lower acyl); alkyl (including lower alkyl); sulfonate ester including alkyl or arylalkyl sulfonyl including methanesulfonyl and ; benzyl, wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted with one or more substituents ~~as described in the definition of aryl given herein~~; a lipid; ~~including a phospholipid~~; an amino acid; a carbohydrate; a peptide; a cholesterol; or other pharmaceutically acceptable leaving group which when administered *in vivo* is capable of providing a compound wherein R¹ and R² are independently H or phosphate;

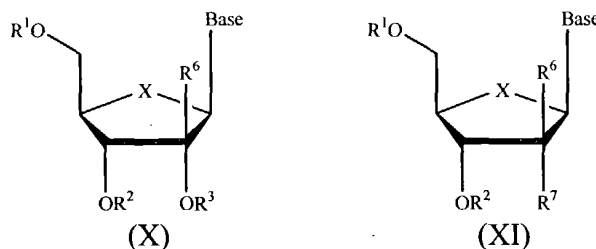
R⁶ is ~~hydrogen~~, hydroxy, alkyl (including lower alkyl), azido, cyano, alkenyl, alkynyl, Br-vinyl, -C(O)O(alkyl), -C(O)O(lower alkyl), -O(acyl), -O(lower acyl), -O(alkyl), -O(lower alkyl), -O(alkenyl), chloro, bromo, fluoro, iodo, NO₂, NH₂, -NH(lower alkyl), -NH(acyl), -N(lower alkyl)₂, or -N(acyl)₂;

R^7 and R^9 are independently hydrogen, OR^2 , hydroxy, alkyl (~~including lower alkyl~~), azido, cyano, alkenyl, alkynyl, Br-vinyl, $-C(O)O(alkyl)$, $-C(O)O(lower\ alkyl)$, $-O(acyl)$, $-O(lower\ acyl)$, $-O(alkyl)$, $-O(lower\ alkyl)$, $-O(alkenyl)$, chlorine, bromine, iodine, NO_2 , NH_2 , $-NH(lower\ alkyl)$, $-NH(acyl)$, $-N(lower\ alkyl)_2$, or $-N(acyl)_2$;

R^{10} is H, alkyl (~~including lower alkyl~~), chlorine, bromine or iodine;
alternatively, R^7 and R^9 , or R^7 and R^{10} can come together to form a bond; and
 X is O, S, SO_2 or CH_2 .

Claims 90-129 (canceled)

Claim 130 (new): The method of claim 89 for the treatment of a hepatitis C virus infection in a host, comprising administering an anti-virally effective amount of a compound of Formula X or XI:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, wherein:

Base is a triazolopyridine, imidazolopyridine, or pyrazolopyrimidine;

R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are independently H; phosphate or a stabilized phosphate prodrug; acyl; alkyl; sulfonate ester; or benzyl, wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted; a lipid; an amino acid; a carbohydrate; a peptide; cholesterol; or other pharmaceutically acceptable leaving group which when administered *in vivo* is capable of providing a compound wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are independently H or phosphate;

R^6 is hydroxy, alkyl, azido, cyano, alkenyl, alkynyl, Br-vinyl, $-C(O)O(alkyl)$, $-C(O)O(lower\ alkyl)$, $-O(acyl)$, $-O(lower\ acyl)$, $-O(alkyl)$, $-O(lower\ alkyl)$,

-O(alkenyl), chloro, bromo, fluoro, iodo, NO₂, NH₂, -NH(lower alkyl), -NH(acyl),
-N(lower alkyl)₂, or -N(acyl)₂;
R⁷ is hydrogen, OR³, hydroxy, alkyl, azido, cyano, alkenyl, alkynyl, Br-vinyl,
-C(O)O(alkyl), -C(O)O(lower alkyl), -O(acyl), -O(lower acyl), -O(alkyl),
-O(lower alkyl), -O(alkenyl), chlorine, bromine, iodine, NO₂, NH₂, -NH(lower
alkyl), -NH(acyl), -N(lower alkyl)₂, or -N(acyl)₂; and
X is O, S, SO₂ or CH₂.

Claim 131 (new): The method of claim 89 for the treatment of a hepatitis C virus
infection in a host, wherein, in the compound of Formula XVII:

R¹⁰ is H, alkyl, chlorine, bromine or iodine;
R⁷ and R⁹ are independently hydrogen, OR², alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, Br-vinyl,
O-alkenyl, chlorine, bromine, iodine, NO₂, NH₂, -NH(lower alkyl), -NH(acyl),
-N(lower alkyl)₂, or -N(acyl)₂;
R⁶ is alkyl, chlorine, bromine or iodine;
alternatively, R⁷ and R⁹, or R⁸ and R⁹ can come together to form a bond; and
X is O, S, SO₂ or CH₂.

Claim 132 (new): The method of claim 89 wherein R¹ is hydrogen or phosphate.

Claim 133 (new): The method of claim 89 wherein R² is hydrogen, acyl or alkyl.

Claim 134 (new): The method of claim 89 wherein R⁶ is alkyl.

Claim 135 (new): The method of claim 89 wherein R⁷ and R⁹ are independently
hydrogen, OR², or hydroxy.

Claim 136 (new): The method of claim 89 wherein R⁷ is hydroxy.

Claim 137 (new): The method of claim 89 wherein R⁹ is hydroxy.

Claim 138 (new): The method of claim 89 wherein R⁷ and R⁹ are hydroxy.

Claim 139 (new): The method of claim 89 wherein R¹⁰ is hydrogen.

Claim 140 (new): The method of claim 89 wherein X is O.

Claim 141 (new): The method of claim 89 wherein

R¹ is hydrogen or phosphate;

R² is hydrogen, acyl or alkyl;

R⁶ is alkyl;

R⁷ and R⁹ are independently hydrogen, OR², or hydroxy;

R¹⁰ is hydrogen; and

X is O.

Claim 142 (new): The method of claim 89, wherein the method comprises administering the compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof in combination or alternation with a second anti-hepatitis C virus agent.

Claim 143 (new): The method of claim 142, wherein the second anti-hepatitis C virus agent is selected from the group consisting of consisting of interferon, ribavirin, a protease inhibitor, a thiazolidine derivative, a polymerase inhibitor, and a helicase inhibitor.

Claim 144 (new): The method of claim 143, wherein the second anti-hepatitis C virus agent is interferon.

Claim 145 (new): The method of claim 143, wherein the second anti-hepatitis C virus agent is a protease inhibitor.

Claim 146 (new): The method of claim 143, wherein the second anti-hepatitis C virus agent is ribavirin.

Claim 147 (new): The method of claim 89, wherein the compound is in the form of a dosage unit.

Claim 148 (new): The method of claim 147, wherein the dosage unit contains 50 to 1000 mg of said compound.

Claim 149 (new): The method of claim 147, wherein said dosage unit is a tablet or capsule.

Claim 150 (new): The method of claim 89, wherein the host is a human.

Claim 151 (new): The method of claim 89, wherein the compound nucleoside is in substantially pure form.

Claim 152 (new): The method of claim 89, wherein compound is at least 90% by weight of the β -D-isomer.

Claim 153 (new): The method of claim 89, wherein the compound is at least 95% by weight of the β -D-isomer.